CBNRM Net

The Community-Based Natural Resource Management Network

From the editor

This issue includes, among others, the following: The Focus presents a new report – hot of the press – that provides strong support for support to community-based forest enterprises as a means towards conserving the world's forests. Other items include a job opening, an announcement for grants to fund sustainable use of biological systems, a couple of invitations to submit papers on ICT and CBNRM. You are invited to propose community initiatives to receive a prestigious award. For the rest, there are announcements of several trainings and conferences, as well as new CBNRM literature posted on the web site. Observe that at least one of the deadlines (see section 'Training and learning activities') will pass very soon.

Further information on several topics in this issue is available on the web site (use the web site search engine to locate information). If you have problems accessing or downloading a particular document mentioned in this Newsletter and made available on the web site, write to <mail@cbnrm.net> and request that it be sent via email.

The next issue will appear in early May. Be sure to submit information early in order that it will be included!

Lars T Soeftestad, Editor – lars@cbnrm.net

Membership and organizational issues

New members. Liv Ellingsen (Center for International Environment and Development Studies, Agricultural University of Norway; Ås, Norway), Boubacar Hassane (ESF-Danuol; Niamey, Niger), Pierre Hiernaux (ILRI; Niamey, Niger), Alioune Ka (Centre Suivi Ecologique; Dakar, Senegal), Maguette Kaire (ISRA/CNRF; Dakar, Senegal), Ashish Kothari (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; Pune, India), Darmane Lawan (PDRT; Tahoua, Niger), Marlis Lindecke (DED; Niamey, Niger), Roland Louvel (Coopération Francaise; Niamey, Niger), Ibrahima Mamane (PAAPB; Niamey, Niger), Yayé Manou (DAP-PNEDD/PNUD; Niamey, Niger), Philippe Martel (PASP/DED; Niamey, Niger), Koussou Mian Oudanang (LRVZ/CIRAD; N'Djamena, Chad), Michael Mortimore (Drylands Research; Crewkerne, Somerset, UK), Babatunde O Musa (Dept of Fisheries Technology, Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology; Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria), M'po Doinatien N'Di N'Daga (GERED; Parakou, Benin), Ingrid Nyborg (Centre for International Environment and Development Studies, Agricultural University of Norway; Ås, Norway), Fatouma Oimar Diallo (PNN/GTZ Ingall; Agadez, Niger), Ahimidou Ousmane (Commune Aderamboukane; Menaka, Mali), Roger Pontanier (IRD; Dakar, Senegal), Klaus Rapp (Min Environnement/GTZ; St-Louis, Senegal), Antoine Royer (AGRHYMET; Niamey, Niger), Abouba Saïdou (PROZOPAS; Tahoua, Niger), Yacouba Sangare (URDOC; Niono, Mali), Ouomar Sarr Abdoul (Kaédi, Mauritania), Mahamane Sayabou (Coopération Danoise; Zinder, Niger), Yörg Schaeffer (SNV/Min du Plan; Niamey, Niger), Alexander Schöning (PDRT/GTZ; Tahoua, Niger), Maja Slingerland (University of Wageningen; Wageningen, Netherlands), Tahirou Sy (PASP; Niamey, Niger), Ilse Tempelaar (Téra Nord/SNV/PCLCP; Niamey, Niger), Phuc To Xuan

(Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies, Hanoi Agricultural University; Hanoi, Vietnam), Bernard Toutain (CIRAD; Montpellier, France), Han Dijk (Centre d'Etudes Africanies; Leiden, Netherlands), Bernardo A Vaz Cabral (PASP/SNV; Bissau, Guinea Bissau), Petra Von Lewitzky (ADRA/SEN; Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso), and Martina Wagner (DED; Niamey, Niger).

[Ed. comment: The Register of Members is at <http://www.cbnrm.net/members/register.html>.]

Mailing list and changes in email addresses. Remember to write to <mail@cbnrm.net> to inform about changes in email address and other contact information.

Web site: New material. New knowledge, including links, information about conferences, workshops, and publications, as well as documents for downloading, is added continually. New knowledge can be located in various ways: (1) in the Newsletters, (2) on the 'News' page, (3) the date for last update (located at the end of all web pages), and (4) with the web site search engine. Material for posting should be submitted to <mail@cbnrm.net>.

Recent important updates include: Several documents submitted by members.

Web site: Search function. Since the very beginning, using the search function available on all pages, it has been possible to search – in addition to the whole *CBNRM Net* web site – also the site of the International Workshop on Community-Based Natural Resource Management (Washington DC, May 1998). This will now gradually be expanded to enable searches on a select number of the most important CBNRM related web sites, that carry a lot of CBNRM knowledge and often is focused on a specific region or issue. Please check in at the *CBNRM Net* search page in the coming weeks to look for these updates.

[Ed. comment: The *CBNRM Net* search page is at <http://www.cbnrm.net/search.html>.]

Web site: Use statistics for February 2002. *Key statistics*: Visitors - 2,687; Page views - 14,460; Hits - 17,365; Bytes - 568.1 Mb.

Page views by selected client domains: Argentina (ar) - 1, Botswana (bw) - 18, Brazil (br) - 2, Dominican Republic (do) - 2, Greece (gr) - 62, India (in) - 16, Indonesia (id) - 11, Italy (it) - 6, Japan (jp) - 37, Korea (South) (kr) - 1, Lesotho (ls) - 12, Lithuania (lt) - 6, Malaysia (my) - 4, Mali (ml) - 3, Mexico (mx) - 4, Namibia (na) - 2, Nepal (np) - 20, Nicaragua (ni) - 13, Philippines (ph) - 38, Poland (pl) - 110, Russian Federation (ru) - 12, Saudi Arabia (sa) - 28, Singapore (sg) - 7, Slovak Republic (sk) - 5, South Africa (za) - 253, Taiwan (tw) - 6, Thailand (th) - 34, Trinidad and Tobago (tt) - 2, Zambia (zm) - 68, Commercial (com) - 7626, Educational (edu) - 294, Government (gov) - 2, Network (net) - 3649, Non-profit organization (org) - 666.

[Ed. comment: Explanations of the measures used are at <www.cbnrm.net/help.html> and in Newsletter no. 14 (October 2001). Detailed statistics are at <www.cbnrm.net/support/stats.html>.]

Focus: Forest conservation and community-based forest enterprises

A new report finds that conserving the world's forests depends on support for community-based forest enterprises. Indigenous and local groups now control 25 percent of developing world's forests.

The fate of the world's forests is inextricably linked to the fate of more than 500 million of the world's poorest people living in and around forested areas, according to a report released today by two of the world's leading forestry organizations. The report finds that when forest communities have the opportunity to generate income by marketing forest products and services, they are motivated to protect their forest assets.

The report, "Making markets work for forest communities" – issued by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), a Future Harvest Center based in Bogor, Indonesia, and the Washington, DC-based Forest Trends – finds that improving the lives of individuals residing in and around forests is vital to forest conservation. Eight percent of the world's forests are in legally protected areas, known as biodiversity reserves. This report focuses on how to best manage the vast areas of forest outside of these reserves.

"Excluding poor people from forest markets will not, as some people believe, help to protect forests outside reserves," said David Kaimowitz, director general for CIFOR and one of the report's authors. "We need to acknowledge that hundreds of millions of people live in forests, and their lives depend upon them."

A transition is underway with regard to ownership and control of developing countries' forests. Rural communities and indigenous people are successfully asserting control over forestland, now owning or officially administering at least 25 percent of the developing world's forests – nearly 300 million hectares (741 million acres). That trend is expected to accelerate over the next several years. However, despite their holdings, local communities often do not have authority to fully use and capitalize on their forest assets.

For example, in the Brazilian Amazon, the government has recognized the rights of indigenous groups to about 75 million hectares of forestland, but timber harvests are banned in the same area. "This restriction creates conditions under which illegal logging becomes the only viable option, with mahogany sold for US$ 30 per tree to traders, who resell it for upwards of US$ 3,300", said Andy White, program director of Forest Trends and a coauthor of the report.

"We have to make it easy for small producers to operate legally," said Sara Scherr, a senior policy analyst at Forest Trends and another of the report's co-authors. "Existing regulations are hurting the small landholders, not the large plantation owners. There is a need to level the playing field."

Little has been done, the report states, to help local people use their forest assets in a sustainable manner and to benefit from – and cope with the pressures of – growing demand for forest products.

Yet, the report notes that forest communities do have clear competitive advantages in some markets. For instance, local communities can easily monitor and protect their forests, while corporations must account for the cost of hired management and labor. In addition, communities are often eager to adopt management systems that are sustainable during boom-and-bust cycles for forest products.

"For most of these rural communities, commercial forestry is the only viable pathway for improving their standard of living," said Scherr. "These people should have the opportunity to seek sustainable approaches to managing their forest assets for economic benefit and local habitat preservation. Allowing and encouraging opportunities for the rural poor to play a role in forestry offers an effective way to fight poverty, while also providing the incentive to help conserve their own forest resources."

The report notes that forest communities can better tackle these tasks by forming local producer organizations and gaining business expertise. For example, 256 indigenous communities in poor mountainous areas of southern Mexico joined forces in 1997 to expand and improve their forest enterprises. Through the project, known as Proyecto de Conservacion y Manejo Sostenible de Recursos Forestales, these communities have been able to access outside expertise and support to create more than 1,400 new jobs and increase annual wood production by roughly 60 percent to 660,000 cubic meters. The communities have also improved forest management and established 13,500 hectares of permanent old-growth reserves.

The authors believe that promoting commercial forest markets will require public policy changes and regulatory reforms, as well as partnerships between private sector businesses and community-based enterprises.

"The economic, social, and environmental payoffs from sustainable forest development with local producers could be significant over the next 50 years – large enough to attract the interest of national finance and environmental ministers," Kaimowitz said. "It is urgent to promote a well-defined strategy of forest market development that focuses on local community participation and ownership as opposed to subsidizing large-scale, industrial plantations as a means to forest conservation."

The report describes several opportunities for local forest producers:

- *Developing countries' domestic wood demand is growing more rapidly than that of industrialized nations.* As developing countries' need for wood increases and the ready supply decreases, many countries – such as China and India – are becoming major

importers. Over the last 20 years, the Philippines has actually moved from being a major exporter of timber to being an importer. This has sparked intense interest in new domestic wood sources. Much of the forestland near rapidly growing population centers, where this supply could be found, is currently controlled by rural communities,

- *Company-community partnerships help to meet consumer demands.* Investors could partner with local growers to reforest land that is marginal or unsuitable for farming. For example, international paper companies Sappi and Mondi currently contract with more than 10,000 small farmers in South Africa to grow trees for pulp,

- *High-value tropical hardwood is increasingly scarce.* Much of the world's remaining supply of woods such as mahogany and rosewood is located in areas controlled by forest communities, and

- *New niche markets are expanded by globalization.* For example, environmentally and socially aware corporate buyers, such as home products companies like Swedish firm IKEA and U.K. firm B&Q Do It Yourself, increase demand and awareness of certified wood harvested from sustainably managed forests.

To take advantage of these opportunities, the report states that concerted action is required on two fronts: (1) developing commercially viable small-scale forestry operations; and (2) removing many of the regulatory and market barriers that discriminate against small producers.

In order to improve their market position, the report points out that small producers must analyze markets and position themselves competitively – as is necessary for any successful business. This requires building supply networks to link producers and markets, increasing production efficiency, responding to consumer preferences, and conducting strategic marketing.

The report cites 57 countries with at least one existing partnership between forest industry and local communities. These partnerships promote small-scale forestry operations and offer considerable benefits for all parties. Industrial firms are provided with competitive prices for wood fiber and non-wood products, protection of desirable forest assets, expertise on local forests, and opportunities for socially responsible marketing. Local producers receive benefits such as high-quality planting materials, technical assistance, quality control, investment resources, and marketing expertise.

"We believe that businesses investing with local forest producers will be in a much stronger position in coming years in terms of supplies," White said. "An effective partnership requires a long-term perspective for business development, flexible contract terms, special attention to reducing business risks, and mechanisms to reduce transaction costs."

The authors also call for removal of government policies that thwart efforts to develop local forestry operations. Some of these impediments include:

- Regulations that limit local commercial activities in forests or claim a large share of forest-generated income,

- Subsidies that almost exclusively favor large-scale forest producers,

- Complex permit processes intended to protect resources that instead create barriers for Poorly financed local forest producers,

- Trade restrictions enacted in the name of environmental protection that disproportionately burden poor producers, and

- Political disenfranchisement that gives local communities little input in decisions affecting land use regulations and forest management.

"The key is creating a model for forest management that offers communities a chance to make a profit, but in a way that is compatible with environmental concerns," said Kaimowitz. "Given the scarcity of viable alternatives for rural development in poor agricultural and forest regions, it makes sense for the international community to increase attention and financial investment in forestry beyond purely subsistence goals."

The organizations behind the report

Future Harvest is a global nonprofit organization that builds awareness and support for food and environmental research for a world with less poverty, a healthier human family, well-nourished children, and a better environment. Future Harvest supports the 16 food and environmental

research centers that are primarily funded through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Forest Trends, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization, advocates market-based approaches to conserving forests, including a broad range of products and services. Forest Trends brings together leading agents in industry and finance with representatives from governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in an effort to advance markets that bolster the livelihoods of forest-based communities, markets for sustainably produced forest products, and markets for some of the ecosystem services provided by forests – such as watershed protection, biodiversity, and carbon storage.

Headquartered in Indonesia, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is a leading international forestry research organization established in response to global concerns about the social, environmental, and economic consequences of forest loss and degradation. CIFOR is dedicated to developing policies and technologies for sustainable use and management of forest goods and services, and for enhancing the well being of people in developing countries who rely on tropical forests. CIFOR is a Future Harvest Center.

[Ed. comment: The above text is the press release by Future Harvest, dated 7 March 2002.]

URL (CIFOR): http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/
URL (Forest Trends): http://www.forest-trends.org/
URL (Future Harvest): http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/
URL (the report): http://www.futureharvest.org/pdf/Final_Report.pdf

Networking

Cambodia: Position as Technical Advisor, Community Forest Program. Concern, a leading organization involved in community forestry in Cambodia, has a one-year position to work with the field program in three provinces in Cambodia on building capacity of field staff and partners.

[Ed. comment: A document with further details can be downloaded from *CBNRM Net*, see URL below.]

URL: http://www.cbnrm.net/members/vacancy.html
Email: hrenquiries@concern.ie

Africa: ICT, markets, and politics - call for papers. ICT markets are international. However, penetration rates are very diverse around the world. This creates challenging situations where market structures in countries with low rates of penetration of ICTs are adapting to the general international trends in technology and regulatory structure with their point of departure in economically developed countries. In this situation a key question becomes how to balance the emphasis on developing a basic infrastructure that will serve the general population with appropriate and cheap services, on the one hand, and service the needs of the advanced users, on the other hand.

A leading international ICT journal is inviting research papers dealing with ICT developments in Africa in several areas. The following areas are of special interest to *CBNRM Net* members: (1) Internet - penetration and usage, (2) country cases and comparative analyses, (3) social and cultural factors affecting ICT developments, (4) usage of ICT in social and business life, and (5) national, regional and pan-African ICT policies and plans.

[Ed. comment: If you are interested in more details, and/or would like to write on these issues, please contact me. I would like to propose a collaboration involving several authors and a number of country case studies. The submission deadline is 1 October 2002. The issue will appear in Spring 2003.]

Email: lars@cbnrm.net

Global: Funding sustainable use of biological systems. The IUCN Sustainable Use Team is offering small grants to promote scholarly contributions from individuals from developing countries in the field of sustainable use of biological systems. This is made possible through a grant from the Ford Foundation. The aim is to promote the authority of science from developing countries and foster opportunities for scholarly exchange. Priority will be given to proposals that address the complex connections between people and nature, exploring the concept of sustainability. Applications related to activities that employ innovative inter- or multi-disciplinary approaches are the most likely to be funded. Funding will be provided for participation at scholarly/technical meetings. In general, the program is intended to support the

communication of research findings, project results, and lessons learned from developing countries.

Some guidelines for preparing the application: (1) a budget detailing all costs to be covered and any other sources of funding (with amounts), (2) a description of the meeting (including dates) and the applicant's role at that meeting. Please note that grants will not be awarded to passive meeting participants. Applicants must demonstrate that they will play an active role, either by presenting research findings or serving as a resource person, (3) title and description of applicant's presentation (please include abstract if available), where applicable, (4) an explanation of why the activity for which funding is being sought is significant vis-à-vis the science of sustainability, and (5) a description of linkages to the activities of IUCN, if any.

[Ed. comment: Ruth Barreto, IUCN's Sustainable Use Team, is Coordinator for the IUCN/Ford Foundation Small Grants program, see email below.]

Activities and interventions

Global: Partnership awards for sustainable development in tropical ecosystems. The Equator Initiative Awards will recognize five community initiatives that exemplify extraordinary achievement in reducing poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the equatorial belt (see 'Ed. comment' on the equatorial belt). Each of the five selected initiatives will receive a monetary award of US$30,000, a certificate of recognition, a trophy, and be represented at the World Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August - 4 September 2002. A special recognition prize will be awarded to a World Heritage site for the successful integration of conservation and local livelihoods. The official call for nominations for the first Equator Initiative Awards was made on 30 January 2002 at the Equator Initiative Launch Event in New York City.

Your help in reaching the indigenous and local communities across the Equatorial belt that the Equator Initiative aims to recognize and support is appreciated. Please nominate an inno-vative community initiative for the Equator Initiative Awards and/or share this information with other individuals, communities and organizations that may be aware of such initiatives to nominate.

The Equator Initiative has been designed to support the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The initiative seeks to promote a worldwide movement to reduce poverty along with the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits from biodiversity. This aim will be accomplished through a three-part program consisting of a prestigious award to recognize local achievements, learning exchange grants to foster South-South capacity building, and the generation and sharing of knowledge to influence policy.

The Equator Initiative will continue beyond the World Summit by drawing upon the lessons and approaches identified through the awards process. The lessons distilled will be disseminated through a series of policy papers, case studies and capacity-building exchanges. The capacity building exchanges will be in the form of on site community visits to award recipients.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is pleased to offer the Equator Ini-tiative, a new partnership program with the Government of Canada, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), Brasil Connects and the United Nations Foundation (UNF).

[Ed. comment: The equatorial belt encompasses the region of the earth that is 23.5° north and south of the Equator. Approximately 116 countries are fully or partially located within this region. Information on eligibility and selection criteria as well as nomination forms may be obtained, see contact information below. Nominations will be accepted until 15 May 2002.]

Training and capacity building

Pacific: Community-based conservation management course. The course will be held at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji, 15 April - 10 May 2002. Applications should reach the SPREP Secretariat no later than 22 March 2002.

The aim of this course is to continue to build and improve the capacity of conservation practitioners, community representatives, government and NGO technical officers and training personnel in the management of community-based conservation projects and sites for the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources.

<div align="right">Email: Frank Wickham – FrankW@sprep.org.ws</div>

Africa: Wildlife management courses. Several courses in the period May 2002 - January 2003. The organizer, Ecolife Expeditions, South Africa, is endorsed by the Centre for Wildlife Management at the University of Pretoria.

[Ed. comment: Detailed descriptions of the courses are available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

<div align="right">URLs: http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/; http://www.ecdolife.co.za
Email: education@ecolife.co.za</div>

Southern Africa: Southern Africa Wildlife College, 2002 short course program. The courses are targeted at specific audiences within the broader framework of environmental management: natural resource managers within public or private sector agencies, informal level institutions, university groups, and other groups/individuals involved in natural resource management programs in Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

The following topics will be covered: Strategic protected area management planning, Facilitation, communications and conflict management in conservation-based community development, Skills for research management in NRM, GIS applications and environmental management, Fire management, Sustainable NRM and community-based tourism, wildlife valuation tools, and Animal care and capture.

[Ed. comment: Detailed descriptions of the courses are available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below. The contact person is Marie-Tinka Uys, see email below.]

<div align="right">URL: http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/
Email: mtuys@sawc.org.za</div>

Netherlands: Training programs in forest management. The International Agricultural Centre, Wageningen, The Netherlands, is organizing the following trainings: (1) Training programme on leadership and adaptive management in forest environments (duration: 1-11 weeks, period: September-November 2002), and (2) Seminar on adaptive management for biodiversity conservation (period: 21-23 October 2002).

[Ed. comment: Detailed description of the training is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

<div align="right">URL: http://www.iac.wageningen-ur.nl/
URL: http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/
Email: training@iac.agro.nl</div>

Conferences, seminars and workshops

[Ed. comment: See the *CBNRM Net* web site for further listings and details, including documents that can be downloaded, at <http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/>.]

Global: Information Technology in Regional Areas (ITiRA). The next ITiRA conference will take place in Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia, 27-29 August 2002.

The overall purpose of the Conference is to examine strategies, research and applications for the introduction and use of Information Technology in Regional Areas. Current experience indicates that regional areas are lagging behind cities in the adoption of IT and that there are specific issues relating to the use of IT in regions.

ITiRA will include a mixture of refereed papers as well as non-refereed case studies and applications. Whilst seeking papers and case studies in the broad arena of IT in regions, ITiRA currently has eight major track themes: community informatics, health, media and

communication, industry and e-economy, education and training, developing countries and indigenous peoples, culture and media, and e-democracy.

Each track will consist of a keynote address, refereed papers, case studies and reports of applications. The conference is designed for community leaders, IT managers and project leaders, funders, policymakers, researchers, government officials and regional community development groups.

URL: http://itira.cqu.edu.au/
Email: itira2002@cqu.edu.au

Global: Public participation GIS conference. The first Annual Public Participation GIS (PPGIS) conference will take place at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA, 21-23 July 2002, organized by the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA).

PPGIS refers to a range of topics raised by the intersection of community interests and GIS technology. The conference will bring together participants with a rich diversity of experiences that include citizens and citizens groups, public officials, administrators, technicians, planners, librarians, policy scientists, and researchers. Speakers will present on issues that range from urban neighborhoods to indigenous peoples, developing nations, environmental organiza-tions, and virtual communities.

[Ed. comment: This conference would seem to provide unique opportunities for conservation GIS people, who have far more experience in the use of GIS for collaborative planning and nonprofit and grassroots GIS applications than other non-profits, research institutions and government agencies. Another exiting thing about this conference is the intersection of diverse organizations and interests. The deadline for submitting abstracts for papers is 29 March 2002.]

URL: http://www.urisa.org/ppgis.htm
Email: info@urisa.org

Mainland South East Asia: III MMSEA conference. The third Montane Mainland South East Asia (III MMSA) conference is taking place in Yunnan, China, 25-28 August 2002.

[Ed. comment: Detailed description of the conference is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

URL: http:// www.cbik.ac.cn
URL: http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/
Email: cbik03@public.km.yn.cn

Global: Conference on IT, communication and development, call for papers. The second International Conference on Information Technology, Communications and Development (ITCD) takes place in Kathmandu, Nepal, 1-3 December 2002. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Nepal organized the first ITCD conference in 2001.

An increasing number of people in developing countries and countries in transition are using ICTs to bring about change in their work methods and environment and to speed up the development process. We are, however, still at a point where we mostly have questions and few answers. The conference will address these and other issues.

[Ed. comment: This conference addresses the issues that was the starting point for *CBNRM Net*, and that still remains its main focus and challenge: namely how to use ICTs optimally to define, structure and advance knowledge management and networking among the global CBNRM community of practice. I would be interested in that some among you propose papers based on your own work on CBNRM and networking, be it on the local or regional level. Write if you are interested in this. I would propose collaboration among some of us on preparing such papers. A detailed description of the conference is available on the *CBNRM Net* web site, see URL below.]

URLs: http://www.itcd.net/; http://www.cbnrm.net/resources/events/
Email: alfred.diebold@fesnepal.org

Global: Large rivers symposium (LARS2). The second International Symposium on the Management of Large Rivers for Fisheries: Sustaining Livelihoods and Biodiversity in the New Millennium (LARS2), in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 11-14 February 2003.

The objectives of the symposium will be to: (1) provide for people working on the management and development of rivers a forum to review and synthesize the current status of large rivers systems including their ecology, fisheries, environmental impact assessments, multiple uses of resources and associated socio-economic considerations, (2) raise the political, public and scientific awareness of the importance of river systems, the living aquatic resources

they support and the people that depend upon them, and (3) contribute to better management, conservation and restoration of the living aquatic resources of large rivers.

[Ed. comment: The deadline for submitting abstracts for papers is 31 May 2002. The contact person is Chris Barlow, see email below. The Editor of this Newsletter would like to state, for the record, that there are no ties – familial or otherwise – between this symposium and him.]

URL: http://www.lars2.org/
Email: barlow@mrcmekong.org

Tools

Accessible information on development activities. The Accessible Information on Development Activities (AIDA) project facilitates access to information already available on the web sites of development organizations about activities that they fund, execute of implement. AIDA is an annotated directory that contains descriptive information on planned, current and completed projects and programs. It links users to detailed information on results, lessons learned and evaluations when this information is available on other sites.

AIDA is supported and managed by the Development Gateway. A multi-agency team that includes Bellanet, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) and the World Bank are jointly implementing this initiative. They are supported by a core working group that includes staff from USAID, UNDP and FAO. AIDA builds on the work of the International Network for Development Information Exchange (INDIX) and the International Development Mark-up Language (IDML) initiative and organizations that are participating in this project.

[Ed. comment: I have submitted the *CBNRM Net* web site to the Development Gateway / AIDA. There are, as of yet, few other CBNRM sources available. I will suggest further sources to AIDA.]

URL: http://www.developmentgateway.org/aida/

Web-to-email. In the absence of an Internet connection, web-to-email servers makes it pos-sible to retrieve information from any public Web site, from anywhere in the world. Around the world there are many Internet users that only have access to email, or that have very bad or prohibitively costly connections (the latter certainly applies to many of you). Web-to-email servers are computers that fetch documents from the Web, and send them to the user as email messages, either in plain text of HTML.

To use the system, send an email message address to a web-to-email server. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the email message, type the URL, that is, the address (beginning with <http://>) of the web page you want to read, prefaced by "get" and a space.

An example: If you want to retrieve the PDF version of the overview document on *CBNRM Net* titled "Community-based natural resource management: Knowledge management and knowledge sharing in the age of globalization", send an email addressed to <www4mail@access.bellanet.org>. Keep the subject line empty. In the body of the message write <http://www.cbnrm.net/pdf/cbnrmnet_002_overview.pdf>.

[Ed. comment: The URL below is to a page that explains how web-to-email works in more detail, while the email is for a web-to-email server. This issue was also covered in *CBNRM Net* Newsletter no 14, October 2001.]

URL: http://www.bellanet.org/email.htm
Email: www4mail@access.bellanet.org

Literature

[This section includes key CBNRM-related literature, both new and old, published and gray. Documents submitted by members and made available for downloading on the *CBNRM Net* web site are routinely listed here. Most documents included can be downloaded from the *CBNRM Net* web site (to locate documents use the web site search engine). Some of the documents listed are reviewed, discussed, or otherwise mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter.]

Haug, Ruth, and Estrellita C Rauan. 2001. *Operationalising the right to food in Africa.* Noragric Report No. 2. Aas, Norway: Noragric, Agricultural University of Norway.

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